

Message Text

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SUBJ : ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE: FOCUS ON MULTINATIONALS?

REF : LAGOS 6790

SUMMARY: A MEETING OF NIGERIAN NATIONAL AND STATE COMMITTEES ON
APARTHEID WAS HELD AT ENUGU JULY 2 AND 3. CONFERENCE URGED FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT, STATE GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTION
S

TO PARTICIPATE IN EFFORTS TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT APARTHEID AND WIN
SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA RELIEF FUND. CONFERENCE ALSO CONCLUDED
THAT NATIONAL SECRETARIAT SHOJLD CONDUCT INVESTIAGATIONS CONCERNING
"RACISST REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS MENTORS." COMMUNIQUE DID
NOT DEFINE MENTORS", BUT ACCORDING TO "NEW NIGERIAN" OF JULY 4
STUDY WILL BE MADE OF WHAT TRADE AND OTHER DEALINGS MULTINATIONAL
CORPORATIONS IN NIGERIA HAVE WITH THE APARTHEID REGIMES IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO
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FEDERAL MILITARY GOVT. AND PUBLIC. END SUMMARY.

1. MAIN BODY OF THE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS: "THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE
CONFERENCE WAS TO PLAN STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINED PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT
ABOUT THE EVILS OF APARTHEID AND THE NEED TO CONTRIBUTE TO

SOUTHERN AFRICA RELIEF FUND. TO THIS END, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE NATIONAL AND STATE COMMITTEES SHOULD NOW MOUNT EXTENSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES. THESE INCLUDE THE ORGANIZATION OF STUDY GROUPS AND SEMINARS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATING TO THE

EVILS OF APARTHEID AND THOSE WHO SUSTAIN IT.

2. "FOR EFFECTIVENESS, THE CONFERENCE DECIDED THAT THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT SHOULD HAVE FULL-TIME RESEARCHERS WHO WILL CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS ABOUT THE RACIST REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS MENTORS. THE INFORMATION SO GATTHRED WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR GOVERNMENT AND ALSO FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION.

3. "THE MASS MEDIA, RELIGIOUS BODIES, THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING, MARKET WOMEN AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS ARE TO BE EFFECTIVELY USED TO MOBILISE THE WHOLE NATION. TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS TO EVERY ONE NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS, RADIO, TELEVISION PROGRAMMES, FILMS AND POSTERS ARE TO BE SHOWN AND DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND ALL INFORMATION WILL BE IN ENGLISH AND MANY NIGERIAN LANGUAGES.

4. "EACH STATE COMMITTEE WILL BE AUTONOMOUS IN THE WAY IT DESIGNS ITS PROGRAMMES FOR PUBLICITY, AND WILL BE ASSISTED BY BOTH THE STATE AND FEDERAL MINISTRIES OF INFORMATION.

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5. "WITH REGARD TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID TO BE HELD IN NIGERIA NEXT MONTH, THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON APARTHEID IS TO ORGANISE AN INTERNATIONAL RALLY IN LAGOS ON AUGUST 20. THE STATE COMMITTEES WILL ALSO HAVE THEIR OWN PROGRAMMES DURING THE PERIOD OF THE CONFERENCE. THE CLIMAX OF THE ACTIVITIES WILL BE A SPECIAL RALLY IN KANO DURING WHICH DELEGATES ATTENDING THE WORLD CONFERENCE ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT THE GRAVE OF GENERAL MURTALA MUHAMMED TO PRAY AND PAY RESPECTS TO A FORMIDABLE CHAMPION AND ILLUSTRIOUS HERO IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM, RACISM AND APARTHEID."

6. COMMENT: UN-SPONSORED ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN LAGOS AUGUST 22-26. ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR GOVERNMENTS TO REPORT ON THEIR EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA. ENUGU CONFERENCE AND PLANNED RALLIES WILL HELP TO FOCUS DOMESTIC ATTENTION ON CONFERENCE AND DEMONSTRATE IN PART NIGERIAS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

INTERESTING TO NOTE, THAT WHILE COMMUNIQUE DID NOT DEFINE THOSE WHO SUSTAIN APARTHEID OR SOUTH AFRICAS "MENTOR" JOURNALIST WHO REPORTED CONFERENCE IDENTIFIED TARGETS AS MULTINATIONAL

CORPORATIONS DOING BUSINESS HERE AND IN SOUTH AFRICA. SEVERAL

AMERICAN MULTINATIONALS HAVE INVESTMENT AND/OR TRADE RELATIONS WITH BOTH

NIGERIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. A POSSIBLE NIGERIAN INITIATIVE

AT THE UN CONFERENCE

MIGHT BE AIMED AT THESE AND OTHER MULTINATIONALS DOING BUSINESS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

REASONABLE ALSO TO ANTICIPATE PLENTY ORATORY

ON NUCLEAR AND MILITARY COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA, ESPECIALLY IN

AFTERMATH OF SEAN GERVASI TESTIMONY WHICH PLAYED BIG TODAY IN LOCAL PRESS.

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